

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

Image data provided from a scanner is simultaneously supplied to page memory and a reference value calculating section. The reference value calculating section creates a density histogram of the document image on the basis of image data corresponding to a predetermined number of image lines and calculates a set of correction reference values for pixel density correction using the density histogram. A range correcting section corrects pixel density indicated by the image data on all the image data read out from the page memory by using the set of correction reference values. The predetermined number of image lines is a fraction of all the image lines of the document image read by the scanner.